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J. W. Henderson to Sarah A. M. Henderson (21 June 1863)

John Watson Henderson

Sarah Anne Means Henderson

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dom does not know how much I love him
as my heart & good wishes are ever for him
His strong desires make me love him more
We don't know what is the cause of it unless it is
I hope I will get a letter from you stating that you
sweet little Alice have both got well & all is getting along
well at home. It does me no little good to get a long
letter from the dear ones at home bearing the news that
all are well & doing well. I am glad to tell you that
my health is better now & has been for the last
week or two than it has been since I left home. True
my bones are still aching off some all the time
but it doesn't seem to hurt me at all. I feel more
lively & in better spirits than I have in a good while
I think if I was at home now I could enjoy myself
better perhaps than I did when I was there. I study
a good deal about you & Alice being sick & about the
state of our army at Pickensburg & Fort Hudson but
we still get favorable news from there & I think if
I could just get a good long sweet letter from home
such as you generally write, I would feel all right
as much so at least as I expect to, while the war lasts
Then if I can just get home safe & sound to my dear
Sallie & babies I expect to spend the balance of
my days in unalloyed happiness. Oh! I do hope
that that day is not far distant.

now I am in a very bad way - I hope
somebody has been down in the East with the
Simpson & several others - John Billy & nearly all the
Billie boys had a whole lot of it but no getting better.
Dear, if you have seen any letters up to this time you
have learned that I was about to send you some money
by a Mr. Brunel but did not, I met with another
opportunity this morning & started the money & your
rings. Major Jones of 29th got a furlough yesterday
evening late for 30 days & left so soon this morning
but I did not have time to write a letter by him.
The lines near Oxford & promised to hand the money
over to rev. E. C. Davidson if so, I know you will
get it, you will find two little bundles wrapped
up in paper with strings around them, the small
one is Billie Gray's money & string is rings to Lane &
in the other you will find \$20 dollars - the two
outside 10 dollar bills are Dan's to his wife & the 5
20 dollar bills & the 3 rings are for you. Lantier & Alice
Alice has one little red settler it is gone & Lantier's &
Lantier & Alice will be too large for their fingers
for a good while but you can let Jane & Maggie
wear them some if they want to until the balls
get larger. if the balls should fall out you can get
some sealing wax & heat ^{it} & fill up the holes again.
I tried to have the first letter of your name put in this
but the diamonds or seal was too small.

Now I want, if you get the money, you can use it as
you think best, as to one of my other letters about
buying some debts. Mr. Davidson gave you \$20. but if I
thought the Yanks would get Wickburg & spread
it over Miss I would be glad if you & your Pa.
would sell off all you can & take the money &
go back to old N. C. & live there till the war ends
for I am satisfied if the Yanks ever get in our
neighborhood again, they will take the last money
there if they can't persuade them they will burn
away, I would be glad if all the connections down
there could manage some way to save the slaves
if they don't seem to want to go to the Yanks.
& I don't blame them for not wanting to go for a part
says our people killed 1000 but if you can get
at Kit Hudson they put them in front of his father
if the Yanks ever get in our vicinity again & Bob
still don't want to go, I want you to do all in
your power to save him & the girls too, hide them
out somewhere & feed them somehow till the Yanks
leave, or send Bob to me if he wants to come & you have
a chance & perhaps they won't take the girls - but I hope
they will never get on there any more, if our people can
whip them badly at Wickburg I think they will give up.